

# SOUTHBANK NEWS

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Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P18



A reflection of Rembrandt at NGV

Rembrandt set the model for the contemporary artist in both his public and private lives. A new exhibition opened at the National Gallery of Victoria on June 2 called *Rembrandt: True to Life* that explores his brand. *Full story on page 12.*

## At last: City Rd - Power St intersection upgrade complete

*Following years of community campaigning, a major safety upgrade of the dangerous City Rd-Power St intersection has been completed.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
TRANSPORT

The \$3.8 million overhaul comes after a truck hit and injured five people in a horrific incident in May 2021, prompting a community outcry.

"We know City Rd and Power St is an important connection for many, so this upgrade will provide a huge benefit, with a safer crossing for pedestrians and more turning space for vehicles," Minister for Roads and Road

Safety Melissa Horne said after visiting the site on May 18 to announce the project's completion.

The works, which began in October last year, have seen the footpath widened and a pedestrian crossing relocated from the corner where vehicles turn left onto Power St to create more space between pedestrians and vehicles.

Large trucks will also have a wider path to navigate the left turn from City Rd onto Power St.

These measures are aimed at improving road user visibility and awareness, while the automated pedestrian crossing and sensors prevent crowding by triggering changes to the traffic lights to provide additional time for pedestrians to cross.

The left-turn lane along City Rd has also been extended to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow between vehicles turning into Power St and those travelling straight on.

*Continued on page 2.*

## Residents fed up with "hoon playground" at ACCA forecourt

*Residents and authorities have condemned reckless hooners who have been tearing up a forecourt at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), as well as a neighbouring park.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

A concerned Southbank resident, who has regularly witnessed the behaviour and filmed a car ripping up the granitic sand of the forecourt from their apartment tower on May 20, slammed those responsible.

"As a local resident, every weekend I have to listen to idiot hooners revving their engines, performing burnouts etc. on the ACCA forecourt," they said, requesting anonymity.

"Usually there will be one or two groups that arrive on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Some groups take their car photos and leave quietly but other groups will do the full idiot display; smoking their wheels, rev limiting their engines.

"We've also had our neighbourhood park [across the road from ACCA] vandalised by the same idiots who are attracted to the forecourt."

"I've never seen a Victoria Police Highway Patrol patrolling around there once."

The resident reported the issue to ACCA, which stated it was "indeed dangerous and erratic driving" and would be taking action.

"ACCA is working closely with Creative Victoria and the City of Melbourne on developing a plan for the ACCA forecourt to improve its amenity for our visitors and the local community," it said in a statement.

"In the meantime, we have confirmed that officers from the City of Melbourne will be patrolling the area more regularly to address car activity."



▲ A concerned resident has called on authorities to stamp out hooning near ACCA.

**Watch the video online:**  
[southbanklocalnews.com.au](https://southbanklocalnews.com.au)

The ACCA forecourt is set to be turned into a green pocket park with the City of Melbourne 2023-24 Budget confirming a funding allocation of \$1.5 million from the state government towards the project. Further announcements are expected to be made later this year.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the council would work closely with Victoria Police to ensure the hoon behaviour was "stamped out".

"There is no room for hoon drivers in the City of Melbourne. We will be keeping a very close eye on the ACCA precinct to ensure this doesn't happen again," Cr Reece said.

"I hope they [hoons] have got plenty of value on their e-tags and they drive back to where they came from."

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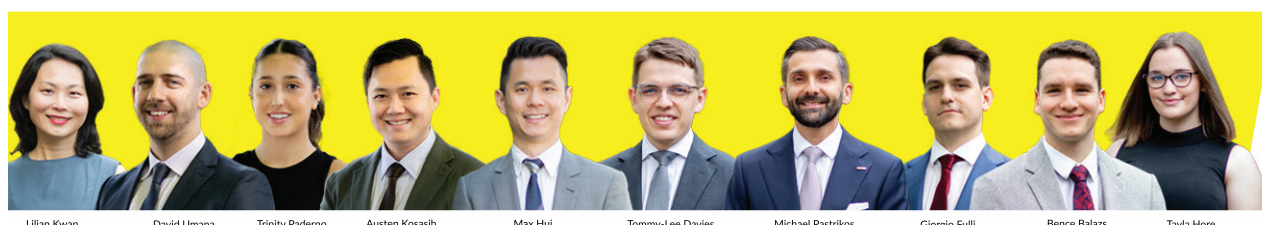
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The deadline for the July edition is July 6.

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▲ Southbank Residents' Association president Tony Penna and State MP for Albert Park Nina Taylor Photo: Brendan Rees.

## At last: City Rd - Power St intersection upgrade complete

*Continued from page 1.*

The project was designed in close consultation with the City of Melbourne, the freight industry, and the local community following the horrific crash, which resulted in a petition being launched calling for all heavy vehicles to be removed along the dangerous stretch of road, which is popular for accessing the nearby West Gate Freeway.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said it was "great news" the works had been completed. "From a City of Melbourne perspective, we'll be monitoring the situation closely, including checking on how the new set-up works for the new intersection, and to ensure it delivers on the safety, pedestrian, and traffic flow needs of the area," he said.

Albert Park state MP Nina Taylor, whose electorate covers Southbank, said, "we thank the community for their patience while we delivered this major upgrade, which is all about improving safety for pedestrians and traffic flow through the intersection."

While many community members welcome the safety upgrade, they still believed trucks ultimately need to be banned from the intersection. There are also fears that speed would be a factor as drivers now negotiate a wider turning arc onto Power St, potentially compromising the safety of pedestrians.

Following the crash that injured five people, the state government installed short-term safety measures at the intersection, but within 24 hours of temporary bollards being installed they were bowled over by a truck, along with a street sign. In another ensuing incident, a heavy vehicle hit a car and dragged it around the corner. ●



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## Residents fed up with "hoon playground" at ACCA forecourt

*Continued from page 1.*

"This episode provides another reason for why it would be a great idea to convert the forecourt into a new green space and a new park for Southbank."

Meanwhile, the resident who had been documenting the behaviour, said they had had enough.

"I'm sick of it and I'm going to video it from now on and keep reporting it until something is done about it, preferably by turning the ACCA forecourt from its current wasteland into something useful for the community," they said.

"More green space for residents would be a much better use of the space than a hoon playground in my opinion."

Southbank Police Commander, Senior Sergeant Alex O'Toole, said that while she wasn't specifically aware of the incidents, police had a zero-tolerance approach for hoon behaviour and dangerous driving, with units actively patrolling the city.

"If something is happening at the time, call Triple Zero (000) for police to respond," she said, adding residents were otherwise encouraged to report incidents to police.

Anyone with information about illegal hoon activity is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or via [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au) ●

# winter night market

## QUEEN VIC MARKET

The Winter Night Market is now on at Queen Vic Market every Wednesday night until 30 August.

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# STUDENT Q&A

# ARTS



*Get to know a student's experience of studying at The University of Melbourne's Faculty of Fine Arts and Music. Joshua Morton-Galea is currently studying a Master of Music (Opera Performance) at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music ...*



WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
ARTS & CULTURE

**What attracted you to studying at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music?**

There were many things. One would be the wonderful location that we have the privilege of working in, being right in the cultural heart of our wonderful city is such an inspiration for our practice. Other wonderful aspects of the Master of Opera Performance program is the real connection to our industry, getting to work with industry professionals, and really feeling that you are part of one big cohort.

**Describe a typical week ...**

[This course] is a highly rewarding experience, and you are always working hard on multiple things, really allowing you to dive straight into your passion. A typical week will see you working in coaching sessions with industry professionals on scenes or role preparation, diction classes in the main European operatic

languages, acting classes, and rehearsals for a major performance throughout the semester (on top of any solo practice you do day to day).

**What inspires you?**

The exploration of story and character. The beauty of operatic work is that you get to work with extremely fulfilling stories and ideas that are fully realised in music. Exploring the various interpretations that the music and text allow you is the most wonderful thing we get to do as singers (all, of course, while singing beautiful music.)

**What's been your favourite experience?**

The ongoing collaboration with my colleagues and classmates. Being able to work in such a close-knit cohort of such wonderful and supportive people allows us all to work together and bounce off each other to grow as individuals, and as performers.

**How do you feel connected to your industry?**

We are constantly working on skills, roles, and performances that enable us to really feel connected to our industry. We are also blessed to be working very closely with a large number of working professionals who mentor us and guide us throughout our training, helping us take that next step towards the profession.

**What are your goals for the next few years?**

I'm looking forward to further immersing myself in the cultural world surrounding the music that I love to perform, while continuing to grow as a performer. My biggest goal would be to really find my own identity within my work, and really solidify myself as a performer.

**Tell us more about your upcoming performance in *The Grumpiest Boy in the World* with the Victorian Opera ...**

The entire Master of Music (Opera Performance) cohort has the privilege of working with Victorian Opera as the cast of their education program show *The Grumpiest Boy in the World* composed by Joseph Twist, with a libretto by Finegan Kruckemeyer. Being able to work with the state opera company to put on such a joyous show is a truly wonderful experience, and an absolute privilege to have an insight from the industry professionals themselves. In this opera I have the pleasure of performing the titular role of Zachary Briddling who is a young, creative boy who wants to find his own uniqueness in the world, and his journey to discover it is a wonderful romp filled with bizarre and colourful characters. ●



*Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
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# CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF MELBURNIANS

Entries are now open for  
the City of Melbourne's prestigious Melbourne Awards.

For more than 20 years, the City of Melbourne has celebrated inspirational individuals and organisations who have made a positive and valuable contribution to our city through the Melbourne Awards.

Each year, we are humbled by the extraordinary people and organisations that go above and beyond to make Melbourne such a sustainable, innovative and inclusive city in which to live, work and visit.

This year, we are looking to add more Melburnians to the honour roll.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the Melbourne Awards showcase some of the most driven and compassionate people in our city.

'Melbourne is full of innovators and creative minds, who are leading the charge to shape our city for the better,' the Lord Mayor said.

'Our Melbourne Awards shine a light on the extraordinary work of those who are going above and beyond in their field - improving community wellbeing, driving innovation and creating a more sustainable city.'

This year, organisations will be recognised in eight key areas: Community, Sustainability, Aboriginal Melbourne - ganbu guljin, Arts and Events, Knowledge and Innovation, City Design, LGBTIQA+, and a new category - Access and Inclusion - has been added this year, recognising the great work to make Melbourne more inclusive and accessible for everyone to enjoy.

Alongside the awards, entries for the Melburnian of the Year are now open - and for the first time - a Young Melburnian of the Year will also be crowned.

Among last year's winners were Reground a social enterprise embedded in the circular economy, and Kensington Neighbourhood House, for providing a place where people of all abilities, backgrounds and ages can participate.

Last year, Kuku Yalanji woman Antionette Braybrook was named as the top Melburnian for her work advocating to give a voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have experienced family violence.



Entries are open until 23 June.  
To apply, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards)

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With a significant flu season predicted this year, we are now taking bookings for flu vaccinations through our new online booking management program VaxApp.

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QR code to book community sessions

## Less space for cars, more for pedestrians in plan to “rebalance” city streets

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
TRANSPORT

Southbankers walking into the CBD may soon be battling with less cars under a new plan for the city’s streets.

Pedestrians will be prioritised and cars could be barred from busy streets under a new City of Melbourne plan to correct space inequality in the CBD.

The draft “Future Streets Framework” proposes that “full or partial closures” to private vehicles be implemented along Flinders, Collins and Spring streets to free up space for those on foot.

The entire CBD section of Elizabeth and Swanston Streets could also become car-free zones, with the council focusing strongly on safe and efficient movement around busy train stations. Partial closures could see motorist access limited to certain times of the day, or streets open in just one direction.

If implemented, the changes would see a less busy, more pedestrian-friendly streetscape for Southbankers walking into the CBD across Princes Bridge or Evan Walker Bridge.

According to Lord Mayor Sally Capp, the blueprint will help prepare busy city areas for the significant changes emerging through the Metro Tunnel Project opening, and the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

A draft version of the plan was expected to be endorsed at a June 6 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

“The Framework will help us deliver streets that work for our city, from efficient traffic flow and safer pedestrian zones, to enhanced public transport hubs,” Cr Capp said prior to the meeting.

“The majority of trips completed within the Hoddle Grid are on foot, so we’re particularly focused on making our streets as safe for pedestrians as possible. We’ve already converted many of our ‘Little Streets’ to shared zones – limiting through-traffic speeds and prioritising pedestrians. We will continue making Melbourne a more walkable city, which means ensuring pedestrians and cars can safely coexist.”

The new framework builds on the council’s Transport Strategy 2030 (released in 2019), a key finding of which revealed that while nine in 10 trips in the CBD are done on foot, only a quarter of total street space was designated for footpaths. ●

Continue reading:  
[southbanklocalnews.com.au](https://southbanklocalnews.com.au)

## Petition launched to make exiting onto Montague St safer

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

Residents of a Southbank apartment building have lodged a petition to have “keep clear” signs installed on Montague St, which they say has become “incredibly dangerous” because of its exiting conditions.

The petition calls for the markings to apply to the intersection of Woodgate St after residents expressed their concerns about experiencing near-misses and accidents when trying to exit onto Montague St.

The affected residents are located at the AC by Marriott Melbourne on Normanby Rd, which accommodates 95 residents, with their car parking facilities situated on Woodgate St.

The petition points out that the notorious Montague Street Bridge blocks the vision of the traffic travelling towards Normanby Rd, and that drivers on Montague St fail to leave a clear space for vehicles exiting either side of Woodgate St.

“You can’t see the oncoming traffic because the Montague Street Bridge blocks it,” lead petitioner Athena Andrews said.

“You’re playing Russian roulette and people aren’t courteous on the roads anymore.”

“There’s another large apartment complex planned for there as well right next door to where I live and it’s going to make the problems two-fold.”

The petition, signed by 16 residents, was presented to the City of Port Phillip, with councillors unanimously supporting the concerns of residents at their May 17 meeting.

“Thank you to the petitioners for bringing this. I know there is a lot of development in the area and as people move in and get in and out, it can get very congested along Montague St,” Port Phillip Mayor Heather Cunsolo said.

“This is a good location to identify at Woodgate [St]. Many people don’t even know it’s a street on the side that the petitioners live.”

Cr Peter Martin said it was “well worthwhile” for the council to take the matter to the Department of Transport, as well as supporting Cr Cunsolo’s request that the department investigated the safety of the neighbouring intersections, which he described as “torturous”.

A Department of Transport and Planning spokesperson confirmed they had received a copy of the petition and were currently investigating the feasibility of “keep clear” line markings at the Montague St and Woodgate St intersection.

“We welcome all feedback and suggestions from the community on how we can boost safety across our road network,” the spokesperson said.



Ms Andrews said she was pleased the council had taken the petition on board and hoped for a positive outcome.

However, as development continued to grow, she and other residents, who spoke to *Southbank News*, said without a plan – or a bigger picture – known for the Montague Precinct, they wondered what the future liveability of their neighbourhoods would look like, including traffic management.

New development in Montague is set to be centred on the transformation of Normanby Rd into an active street that is attractively landscaped and pedestrian-friendly, with new parks also being promised by the state government.

But with the ongoing delays of the Montague Precinct structure plans being released – with the latest date set in April – residents and stakeholders argued that it meant planning was occurring concurrently with rapid private development in the precinct.

For resident Sara Madison, who has lived in the area since 2008, development is “never-ending”, and that “it does grind you down after a while”.

“I understand that’s because of the urban renewal but there is just no let-up. I’ve always felt like no matter what the local residents say, the developers will do whatever they want,” she said, adding she hoped more green space would be created for her eight-year-old daughter and other children to use.

“We’re in the middle of an urban renewal project, it’s going to be tough but there’s got to be a balance somewhere.”

Ms Andrews said she moved to Normanby Rd 12 months ago because she was excited about the Fishermans Bend urban renewal project, an industrial precinct in South Melbourne and Port Melbourne, which is forecast to be home to 80,000 residents and 80,000 workers by 2050.

“I think the area will be a bit better once they develop a bit more infrastructure,” she said, but in the meantime, only one thought played on her mind when looking at traffic along Montague St: “I didn’t expect it to be as bad as what it is.” ●

## New report lays out challenges for electric vehicles in strata

STRATA

A new report by peak property body Strata Community Association (SCA) has outlined the unique challenges that strata buildings face in Australia as the world transitions to electric vehicles.

The report, titled *Electric Vehicles in Strata – Phase 2: Challenges*, expands on findings from SCA’s Phase 1 report released in December last year, and provides a comprehensive resource for the industry and apartment owners.

With one in five Australians living in strata-titled properties and global electric vehicle sales expected to grow by 35 per cent in 2023, SCA national vice-president and chair of the group’s EV taskforce Josh Baldwin said there was an “urgent need for comprehensive support for EV planning and infrastructure development in strata buildings”.

“By equipping our strata communities with efficient and accessible EV infrastructure, we can further encourage EV adoption, and position the strata industry as a leader in sustainable development,” Mr Baldwin said.

Among the key challenges facing greater integration of EVs into strata settings outlined in the report are complexities surrounding owners’ corporation (OC) voting thresholds and striking a balance for renters between consumer demand and owner commitments to EV infrastructure.

And, while the National Construction Code now requires that new buildings must be “EV ready” as of October 1, 2022, almost all older buildings in Australia have not been built with the level of electrical infrastructure sufficient to support additional load for EV charging.

But in laying down the challenge to government and industry, the report highlights that current emissions reduction targets and net-zero commitments won’t be possible without the integration of “the one in five” Australian residents who live in strata complexes.

As part of its list of “policy priorities”, the SCA report recommends that strata buildings and complexes are integrated into “electrification strategies at the same pace as freestanding homes”, and that funding programs are established for the provision of “backbone infrastructure”.

It also called on insurers and fire, rescue and safety technicians to work closely with SCA and other service providers to ensure that policies and programs were “laid out in an effective and equitable manner for strata communities”, and that all levels of government consult “proactively and rigorously” to produce policy outcomes that enable strata residents to “access and benefit from electrification programs”. ●



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▲ Southbankers Glenford and Rolo Noble at Miles St.

## Miles St open space to be expanded

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The northern side of Miles St, between Dodds and Wells streets in Southbank, will be closed and transformed into a new linear pocket park under a council plan to provide more green space for locals.

The project, revealed as part of the council's 2023/24 draft budget in May and funded as part of its "Pocket Parks" program, will see the existing Miles and Dodds Street Reserve expanded with half of Miles St to be converted to new open space.

With the council having already developed a "high-level design", \$190,000 was allocated in last year's budget for early-stage design and feasibility, with an additional \$30,000 allocation in this year's budget for community engagement and design facilitation.

The council said that any permanent road closure would be subject to statutory road discontinuance process, and that further traffic studies, flood modelling and community engagement would inform the extent of the proposed new open space.

The proposed changes would mean that Miles St would transition to one-way traffic, with the extension of open space on the northern side of the street also opening the potential for more outdoor dining space for the 8 Miles Café.

Community engagement is scheduled for late 2023.

### Council to cost CityLink decking

The City of Melbourne has revealed that it will release a "statement of costings and challenges" for the illusive CityLink decking open space project.

The proposal, which was first mooted in the 2010 Southbank Structure Plan, would see an elevated decking constructed in front of the entry/exit to the Burnley and Domain Tunnels connecting the "two halves of Southbank" from Melbourne Square to Miles and Sturt streets.

While it would unlock an estimated 3.4 hectares of open space, the project remains firmly on the shelf with hundreds of millions of dollars likely required from all levels of government.

But following pressure from the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) to provide answers as to the viability of the project, the council has included it as part of "Major Initiative 16" – which focuses on increasing open space in the municipality – in its 2023/24 annual plan.

Community consultation on the council plan ended on June 8. For more information: [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/annual-plan-2024](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/annual-plan-2024)

# Council delivers record budget, but predicted surplus pushed back

*Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the rising cost of living was "central" to this year's budget, as the City of Melbourne remained in the red.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has drafted a record \$850.7 million budget for the 2023-24 financial year, despite posting an increased deficit and pushing back a predicted return to surplus by two years.

As the council's deficit grows from \$11 million to \$17 million, locals will pay more on their rates from July – in line with a 3.5 per cent cap imposed by the Victorian Government – however pensioners can receive a discount of up to \$253.

Despite being in a "strong position to deliver a surplus in 2023-24" 12 months ago, and similarly predicting a return to surplus in the year prior, the council was again forced to shelve any "back in black" celebrations.

The total spend was its highest ever, however announcements promoting a "record budget" (as has done in both previous budgets) were also shelved, perhaps reflective of the more sombre economic times.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that the council was "very alive to" rising mortgages, rents and bills that each household faced, which were "a central part of discussions" while putting together the budget.

"Please do know we are very sensitive to how difficult the environment is out there, and it's been central to our thinking on the budget," Cr Capp said at the May 16 Future Melbourne Committee meeting – the same day it put out its draft budget.

Councillors noted that with inflation at around seven to eight per cent and a rise in construction costs as high as 20 per cent, capping of rate increases at just 3.5 per cent made a return to surplus unachievable without compromising local services.

"It is a great effort by the team to be so mindful and prudent," Cr Capp said.

"We have really done our darndest to be able to continue to deliver on services and projects in the current environment of high inflation and higher construction costs."

A large percentage of council revenue is raised through rates (in this budget, \$377 million), however the second-highest stream is via fees and charges (\$134 million) which was set to increase by almost \$14 million in 2023-24.

This was due in part to greater activity and visitation across the municipality but also an increase in fees, notably the move to charge drivers for on-street parking in the CBD and parts of Southbank until 10pm (rather than 8.30pm) and on Sundays, and the doubling of outdoor dining fees.



From July, hospitality traders in the "central city" – which includes Southbank Promenade and Riverside Quay – will be forced to pay \$556 per sqm each year for an outdoor dining parklet, up from \$278 last year.

Traders outside the central city will pay \$128 per sqm, up from \$64.

Headlining the budget was a \$247.5 million infrastructure spend, which included a further \$60 million for the renewal of Queen Victoria Market, \$17 million for the "city shaping" Greenline project along the Yarra River's northbank, and a further \$28 million for the redevelopment of the Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre.

The council will spend \$16.5 million to secure new open space across the municipality, including a pocket park at Miles and Dodds Street Reserve in Southbank.

It included \$4 million towards its much-publicised bike lane rollout including new protected lanes along the entire stretch of Flinders St, a project set to benefit cyclists travelling across the Yarra River from Southbank into the CBD.

Flagged as its most challenging bike lane project yet, it has committed to delivering the project by July next year, however that timeline was dependent on state government approvals. The Lord Mayor said there would be "extensive, comprehensive consultation" on the Flinders St designs, which were due to be finalised by June 30.

The overall 2023-24 budget invested heavily in events (\$28.2 million), libraries (\$13.4 million), greening and sustainability, business support and creative industries, which includes \$2 million for new public art projects.

The events spend included around \$6 million for Christmas festivities and \$5 million each for Moomba and New Year's Eve, the latter of which attracted almost half a million people earlier this year, generating \$18.7 million in economic activity according to the council.

As it has done post-COVID, the council continued to spend big on cleaning the city's streets, setting aside an additional \$1.5 million to bolster rubbish removal across Southbank, the CBD and Docklands.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the

"strains of recent years" were apparent in the city's finances, which had seen it produce a "disciplined" budget.

"I think it's a budget that's right for the times. Somebody said to me today 'oh, this budget seems a little bit business as usual'. Well, I'll take that as a compliment," Cr Reece said.

"Like everybody else in Australia we're not immune to what is going on in the broader economy."

Cr Rohan Leppert, one of just two serving councillors to have occupied a spot in the Town Hall chambers for more than a decade, said the tough economic times had created a sharper focus.

"We have put more care into this budget than any before – not that we didn't put care in before, of course – but there's no shying away from the stark realities of the financial constraints that all local government finds itself in at this point," he said.

However, the Greens councillor said he was "particularly concerned" about whether the council had enough staff to service a booming population in coming years.

With Melbourne having overtaken Sydney to become Australia's largest city by population, the council was set to increase the number of average full-time equivalent staff next year by 44 (from 1478 to 1522), however in the following three years, from 2024-2027, it was projected to increase staff numbers by just 11.

Cr Leppert said this must be "constantly reviewed" to ensure the council was "not restricting the capacity of the organisation to deliver on essential services for a fast-growing municipality".

Community feedback on the draft budget can be provided via Participate Melbourne until midnight on Thursday, June 8, with the final budget expected to be adopted by councillors on June 27. ●

Have your say:  
[participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

**Flora**  
Indian Restaurant & Cafe

## Flora Indian Restaurant & Cafe

The Flinders Street footpath will be closed to way-through foot traffic at the Metro Tunnel site entrance between Swanston and Degraves streets from 29 May to mid-September.

Flora will still be open to meet all your Indian food cravings. Immerse yourself in the sensory delight of Indian food with a range of fresh curries, breads and snacks.

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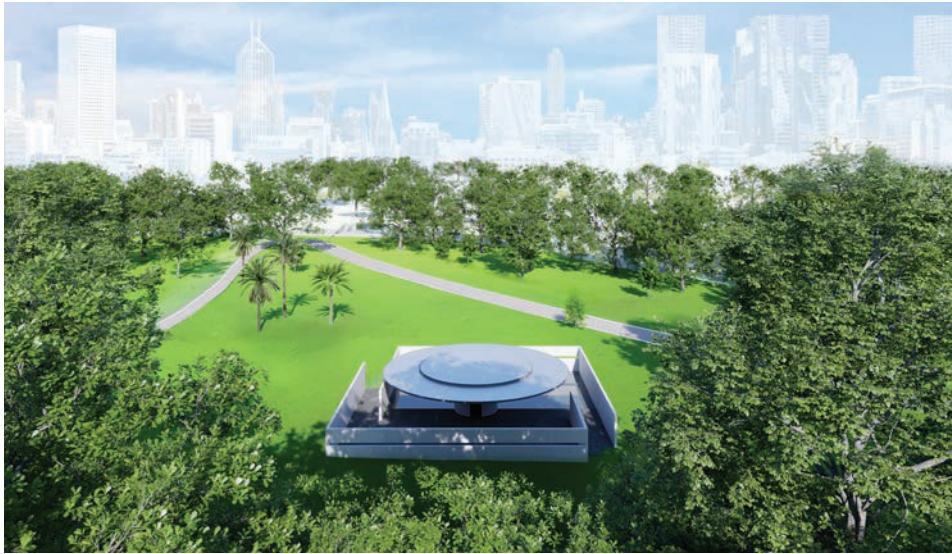
Metro Tunnel site

Flinders Street Station

Supporting business

Construction partner:

CYP-BS00338



## Striking design of MPavilion 10 unveiled

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Following the successful relaunch of the MPavilion late last year after a break during the pandemic, Pritzker Architecture Prize-winner Tadao Ando has revealed his selected design for its 10<sup>th</sup> season.

The forward-thinking architecture commission is an ongoing initiative of the Naomi Milgrom Foundation and is backed by the support of the City of Melbourne, Creative Victoria, ANZ, and Bloomberg Philanthropies.

From the start of summer, MPavilion 10 will be located in Queen Victoria Gardens, boldly reflecting the Japanese architect's signature use of striking geometric interventions in nature.

Different from the previous design that attracted more than 350,000 people to its site and festival program, MPavilion 10 will showcase Mr Ando's precise and assured use of concrete.

Of his new design, which is his first project in Australia, Mr Ando said it began with a "desire to create a sense of eternity within Melbourne's garden oasis."

"I wanted to create an experience that will last forever in the hearts of all who visit," he said.

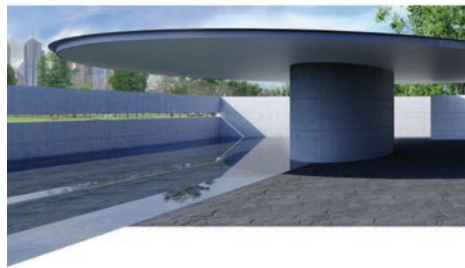
"I imagined an architecture of emptiness, that lets light and breeze enter and breathe life into it. A place that resonates with the environment, becomes one with the garden and blossoms with infinite creativity."

"MPavilion 10 is designed to encourage encounters between people, the natural world and endless dialogue."

Local architect Sean Godsell, principal of Sean Godsell Architects, has also been appointed as executive architect in Australia for this year's season.

The bold design will feature a large 14.4-metre aluminium-clad disc canopy resting on a central concrete column. It will also be semi-enclosed by concrete walls that serve to create a tranquil sanctuary reminiscent of a traditional Japanese walled garden.

The inside of the building features paving and a reflecting pool, and running along the length of the north and south walls are open



slits that frame views of the Melbourne skyline and parklands, connecting the city and Queen Victoria Gardens to the interior.

Of the design, Naomi Milgrom AC said the foundation was looking forward to seeing how visitors, designers, and artists would respond to "this dramatic and serene space".

"Tadao Ando's architecture is remarkable because it radically affects the way we perceive the world around us," Ms Milgrom said.

"Like Tadao Ando, I am passionate about architecture that promotes public life and encourages social interaction, and I'm thrilled that Australians will be able to directly experience his genius through this incredibly special meeting place for conversation, the exchange of ideas and contemplation."

Designed to be a space to gather within Melbourne's Arts Precinct, MPavilion 10 will remain in place for five months, with a rich cultural program full of free events for all to come and enjoy.

Included in the public events will be talks, lectures, music, dance, performances, kid-friendly workshops, and many other design-focused events, and proposals are currently being accepted until June 14.

Mr Ando's design will be relocated to a new and permanent home within the community following the end of the MPavilion season.

Programmatic expressions of interest close 5pm on Wednesday, June 14. ●

**Expressions of interest:**  
[program@mpavilion.org](mailto:program@mpavilion.org)



## No Greenline cash in state budget

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne is relying on big state and federal contributions to fund its "city shaping" Greenline vision, but again missed out on funds from the Victorian Government.

Plans to build a four-kilometre green trail along the Yarra River by 2028 have hit a snag, after the Victorian Government failed to allocate the City of Melbourne's Greenline project any funds in the 2023-24 state budget.

The \$300 million project, which Lord Mayor Sally Capp has said would represent Melbourne's "biggest transformation" since the opening of Federation Square in 2002, requires significant contributions from all levels of government.

Proposing a Northbank trail all the way from Birrarung Marr to the Bolte Bridge, the council has floated a three-way funding model of \$100 million each from itself, and its state and federal counterparts. However, to date only \$20 million has been promised by the Commonwealth Government.

Premier Daniel Andrews was yet to come to the table, and the state's snubbing of Greenline in its May 23 budget was a blow to the project.

An expected completion date of 2028 now looked in peril.

The government has not said whether it shared the council's vision for Greenline, or whether it was a project being actively considered for future funding.

"The budget delivers on every promise made to Victorians at the election while repaying our COVID debt and investing in the jobs and projects that build our state," a government spokesperson told *Southbank News*.

The City of Melbourne's own draft budget (released a week prior to the state government's) revealed a growing deficit and delayed return to surplus, placing questions over its ability to make up any Greenline funding shortfall from the state and federal governments.

The latest council budget included \$97 million for Greenline over the next four years, including \$48.5 million delivered by the city.

It has already allocated \$20 million to Greenline in the current financial year, plus the \$20 million from the grant from the Australian Government, included in the federal budget.

In September last year an economic analysis for Greenline revealed the project would more than pay for itself, delivering more than \$3 of value for every dollar spent according to consultancy group Ernst & Young.

The business case forecasted an increased economic activity of \$740 million over 20 years because of the project, which was expected to create more than 3400 jobs during construction and more than 6400 ongoing jobs by 2042.

Cr Capp said at the time the analysis would be essential to securing crucial funding.

"[It] helps set us all up for success, as we continue to work with key stakeholders on the delivery of Greenline, particularly in relation to our discussions with state and federal governments," she said.

However, there were no state funds currently forthcoming for the four-kilometre trail, and as Victoria's net debt projections were forecast to grow each year until 2026-27, the state's appetite to fund the project was in question.

Cr Capp did not comment on the state's Greenline snub and what it meant for the project's future, instead focusing on what the council did receive in May.

"We welcome the state budget's investment in the Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation, plus our live music and events sectors, supporting our brand as a cultural capital," she told *Southbank News*.

"These investments continue the pace we've been setting in Melbourne for the first quarter of 2023, off the back of a strong summer of events and activations."

"We are acutely aware of the tough conditions our traders and resident continue to endure. Council will continue to work with the state government and our constituents through this period."

In April the council released new designs for all five precincts along the Greenline trail, including an "ecological restoration" of North Wharf, and further details of the river's edge outside the World Trade Centre, Crowne Plaza and Seafarers Bridge.

On May 17 it concluded consultation with the community and key stakeholders after gathering information to "further develop ideas" for the project.

Works at Birrarung Marr, which represents the first section of the path, won't begin until late-2023 at the earliest. ●

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## Puppy dies after suspected of eating poisonous mushroom

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
HEALTH

A Southbank woman has been left heartbroken after her beloved one-year-old Cavalier King Charles died after being suspected of eating a poisonous mushroom.

Misty's owner said the pair had taken a leisurely stroll at the Royal Botanic Gardens during a Saturday afternoon on May 13, where Misty was "quite happy to run around".

"We had a good time, we came back home and spent a normal night, dinner and sat on my lap while I was watching TV," Misty's owner said, who asked not to be named as she struggled to come to terms with her pet's death.

While Misty acted a little out of character that night, her health deteriorated as she suffered diarrhoea and vomiting overnight.

"Since it was on Sunday, I called an online vet to get some advice, and I was told to try to give her chicken soup to prevent dehydration and try to give her chicken and rice."

After her condition worsened, she took Misty to the vet clinic where a blood test later confirmed there was "something toxic" in her liver and she underwent extensive treatment.

"She fought to live as much as she could, but her little body couldn't let her keep going. She passed away on May 17, 10.30pm."

She added: "I feel devastated. If I knew what I know now, I wouldn't take her to the area."

Dr Camille Truong, a mycology research scientist at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV), warned pet owners to be vigilant as the mushroom season continued with the cold and wet weather.

Dr Truong said the RBGV was "fully aware of the presence of wild mushrooms" at the gardens including the death cap and the yellow-staining mushrooms.

"Symptoms after death cap



▲ Dr Camille Truong.

ingestion in dogs are similar to those in humans, with initial gastrointestinal symptoms and then a delay before organ failure," she said.

"Death cap mushrooms are carefully monitored and removed by RBGV staff and signs are in place to warn the public about them."

"RBGV mycologists are working in close collaboration with the Victorian Poison Information Centre (13 11 26), which can be contacted 24/7 in case of suspected mushroom poisoning case in Victoria."

The City of Melbourne said it had received one report this year about toxic mushrooms potentially growing at the Alexandra Gardens on May 17, in which an A-frame was placed around the reported site.

A letter to Misty's owner from the council said it had put signage and posted messages on its social media pages to make the public aware of the dangers.

Misty's owner said she wanted to share her story to make other owners aware of poisonous mushrooms.

"Even just simply mentioning the toxic mushroom issue, I thought it might save some dogs' lives," she said.

"She [Misty] had a lovely personality; kids were coming to her, and she was always friendly and happy to have people around her." ●



## Residents of high-rise tower plead for help as sewage leak overruns building

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
HOUSING

Residents of a housing commission tower in South Melbourne are pleading for action as a major sewage leak causes their building to be overrun with black mould, which they say has become "unbearable".

The leak, which began two years ago at the Park Towers in Park St, has impacted multiple flats across the 30-level building, causing considerable distress to the residents who say their concerns have been met with deaf ears.

Many tenants have been relocated while others have been forced to use buckets to contain the waste as there appeared to be no maintenance works being carried out to rectify the leak, which has led to the popular community room being shut down.

The severity of the issue has also prompted concerns about the structural integrity of the building, as well as the health implications of the leak.

A Department of Families, Fairness and Housing spokesperson said the department was aware of the issue, which was first identified last September.

"However, the department has been unable to carry out necessary repair works to the affected plumbing vent located inside a resident's property," the spokesperson said.

"We have attempted to engage with the renter for several months to obtain access to the plumbing vent, however the renter is yet to provide consent."

"All legal and other avenues are being explored to access the property and ensure plumbing works are carried out as soon as possible. This includes lodging the matter with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal."

According to one resident, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, the leak had destroyed their home.

"In the end I had 25 buckets on my floor. That's not the end - the house exploded with sewage, running down my walls, running into the bedroom, and lounge room," they said, adding the sewage "would go over" their feet as they walked through their flat.

"I used to play Russian roulette to get into my kitchen without getting shitted on."

"All of us have gone through the correct channels, asked them, pleaded with them, but we never get a response or any action."

On Good Friday, residents reported dirty water "streaming" through their lights, ceilings, walls, cupboards, light switches, and other sections of their homes, with a 10-litre



▲ Resident Mohammed Ahmed in the common laundry room where black mould has begun spreading.

bucket filling up in three hours.

Resident Anna Rogalima, who has lived in her flat for 30 years, described the conditions in her home as "horrible".

"It's urgent. People are complaining and nothing's happened," she said, adding "we are paying rent, that means we should have a good facility."

Ms Rogalima, who runs the Russian women's choir, is also devastated they cannot use the community room "until further notice" due to health and safety reasons as water pooled on a section of the floor, and mould spread throughout the toilet.

The community room, which had a \$70,000 funding grant boost recently, was also popular for hosting events, birthdays, table tennis, Zumba sessions, movie nights, social days, and cultural celebrations.

Resident Mohammed Ahmed, 62, said he felt like they were being treated as "sub-human" as the problem caused him to be without hot water and electricity on occasions.

He said it wasn't uncommon to also lay towels on the floor to soak up the leaks a few times a week.

Mr Ahmed said he was "very proud" to be an Australian after arriving from Ethiopia in 2010, but added, "we need to be treated properly, like human beings". ●

**NINA TAYLOR MP**

# Your State MP for Albert Park

Please reach out if you need any help.

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**NinaTaylorMP**

**ACTION not words.**



# Community battery a step closer for Southbank

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *John Tadigiri*  
ENVIRONMENT

The federal government will provide the City of Melbourne with grant funding to install a community battery in Southbank, allowing more locals to tap into renewable energy.

As per its election commitment made back in March 2022 and first revealed in *Southbank News*, the Albanese Government has announced that it will provide the council with \$500,000 in the first round of grant funding to install a 400KW battery.

To be delivered as part of the council's Power Melbourne program, the Tesla battery unit, which is about the size of a small car, will be installed at the Boyd Community Hub precinct.

Local federal MP for Macnamara Josh Burns made the announcement with Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen on May 19, describing the initiative as "a new beginning for Southbank locals", and a win for renters.

"A community battery means Southbankers will be able to access cheaper and cleaner energy," Mr Burns said. "It will also help out with electricity bills, all while reducing emissions and delivering reliable energy."

Funded as part of the federal government's Community Batteries program – a \$200 million investment to install 400 batteries around the country – Minister Bowen said the Southbank battery delivered on a commitment to provide "cleaner, cheaper energy".

"Around one in three Australian households have installed rooftop solar, making us a global leader, but far fewer have batteries to store their energy for later use," he said, adding that the program was about "unlocking storage".

"Renewable energy is the cheapest form of energy and ensuring Australians have access to it is a priority for the government, guaranteeing we can take advantage of Australia's abundant solar energy and save on power bills," he said.



As Australia's most densely populated suburb, 98 per cent of Southbank residents live in apartments or flats and the area is home to one of Australia's largest proportions of renters, meaning most can't install solar panels at their homes.

The government has previously said that the battery would allow households to draw from excess energy stored in the battery to "expand the renewables revolution to more people in Southbank".

Local households who do have solar, but not batteries due to their cost, will be able to feed into the shared battery during the day and draw from it at night, which Mr Burns said would help cut electricity bills, reduce emissions and ease pressure on the grid.

While community batteries usually work "like a sponge" to absorb excess renewable energy, Southbank has very low uptake in solar panels. Implementing a battery would require a variety of appropriate locations to be identified locally for an array of solar to be installed, as well as other forms of remote energy generation.

As reported in the August 2022 edition of *Southbank News*, it's understood the 70,000sqm roof of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) is a key location

under discussion for a potential "inner-city solar farm".

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the funding from the federal government would ensure Southbank maintained its liveability status with affordable, renewable energy.

"Southbank is our most densely populated suburb, and it continues to grow. A community battery will ensure this popular neighbourhood maintains its liveability status," Cr Capp said.

"This investment will support our Power Melbourne project, which will deliver new community batteries and infrastructure to households throughout the municipality."

"Access to green, affordable energy has never been so important, and our surveys tell us 75 per cent of City of Melbourne residents support the installation of community batteries in their neighbourhoods."

"As part of our Power Melbourne project, work is already well underway to install our first community battery at Library at the Dock. We look forward to flipping the switch on this milestone in December 2024."

With the City of Melbourne giving the green light to the project, work will now begin to formalise the battery's location, engage with the local community and start work in coming months to plug the battery into the grid. ●

## Have you had your flu shot yet?

WORDS BY *MyClinic Southbank*  
HEALTH

Southbank residents: as the flu season approaches MyClinic Southbank want to ensure the health and wellbeing of our valued residents.

One of the most effective ways to safeguard yourself and your loved ones from the influenza virus is by getting a flu shot.

Influenza is a respiratory illness that is spread by the droplets when you cough and sneeze. These tiny droplets of fluid are launched into the air and can also land on surfaces; anyone who makes contact with these surfaces can get infected and spread the virus further.

The flu can occur anytime of the year, however, in Australia the flu is more prevalent during the cooler months between April and October, so it is important to get your flu vaccine early.

This vaccination not only reduces the risk of contracting the flu but also lessens the severity and duration of symptoms if infection does occur. By getting your flu shot, you will not only contribute to your own health but also the wellbeing of your community.

MyClinic Southbank has an exclusive deal for all Southbank residents ...

Flu shots will be at a reduced rate of \$10 and the additional consult will be bulk billed. Some residents will be eligible for the government funded flu shot, if you think this may apply to you give us a call to discuss.

We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this vital preventive measure by scheduling your flu shot. Stay well this winter.

We understand that some of you may have concerns or questions about the flu shots. The knowledgeable healthcare providers who consult at MyClinic Southbank are here to address any queries and provide you with accurate information to make an informed decision.

Contact us on **9131 4210**, or alternatively, book online for an appointment at **myclinic-group.com.au** ●



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110 Wells Street	3 beds, 2 bath, 1 car	Auction	\$1.561m
7308/70 Southbank Boulevard	3 beds, 2 bath, 2 car	Private Sale	\$1.35m
106/83 Queensbridge Street	3 beds, 2 bath, 1 car	Private Sale	\$875k
197/173 City Road	2 beds, 1 bath, 1 car	Private Sale	\$595k
1/272 Walsh Street	1 bed, 1 bath	Private Sale	\$705k
5201/442 Elizabeth Street	2 beds, 1 bath	Private Sale	\$505k
2705/241 City Road	2 beds, 2 bath, 1 car	Private Sale	\$540k
1006/152 Sturt Street	2 beds, 2 bath, 1 car	Private Sale	\$605k
9/120 Sturt Street	2 beds, 1 bath, 1 car	Off Market Sale	\$770k

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Your City of Melbourne community update

# DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY TODAY, SHAPING OUR CITY FOR TOMORROW

City-shaping infrastructure projects, our biggest events calendar and making the city safer, cleaner and fairer are highlights of the City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023-24.



We've planned a full calendar of events so everyone can enjoy an affordable visit to the city.

## Our \$850.7 million draft Budget is delivering for our community today, while shaping our city for tomorrow.

In announcing the draft Budget, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said it was "designed to overcome the current economic challenges, while realising our community's aspirations for Melbourne - the nation's fastest growing capital city".

"Our draft Budget 2023-24 delivers on our commitment to create a bustling, inclusive and clean city today, while investing in a more affordable, liveable and prosperous future for our community," the Lord Mayor said.

"We're getting on with the things that matter most - making our city cleaner and safer, building better facilities and providing vital services, and boosting business with events and support."

We know Melburnians are feeling the pressure of mortgage and rent stress and rising household bills - and this has been front of mind through the development of this budget.

That's why we're doing what we can to limit the amount of increased costs that we pass on to our ratepayers.

By not passing on the full impact of inflation pressures, we will save households and families \$4.2 million.

## Rates keep our city running

Our teams work around the clock to deliver essential services - from waste and recycling collections to road works and street cleaning, public health and safety, and keeping our parks and gardens in great shape for everyone to enjoy.

Every Victorian council is facing the challenge of inflation rising faster than - and above - the current Municipal Rate Cap.

After two years of rates relief for residents and businesses and a modest

increase this year, in 2023-24 we will implement the State Government's 3.5 per cent Municipal Rate Cap.

Rates change every year as property values change. Property valuations are market-driven and determined by the State Government.

We will help ease the burden on pensioners by providing a rates discount of up to \$253.

Any ratepayer can apply for rate relief through the City of Melbourne Rates Financial Hardship Policy.

## A cleaner, safer and more caring city



It's our responsibility to get the basics right, so we're investing a record \$60.9 million to scrub the city clean, boost safety on our streets, and work closely with our communities to identify and act on the needs of each neighbourhood.

We're investing \$36.8 million to spruce up our streets and keep the city free from graffiti. This includes funding for our expanded Melbourne Clean Team along with more graffiti removal, street sweeping, and high-pressure cleaning of footpaths, roads and street furniture.

More than \$28 million will be invested to collect waste from residents and businesses, while an additional \$1.5 million will bolster

work to remove rubbish from our streets across the city, Docklands and Southbank.

We'll invest \$5.7 million to make our city a safer place for all. CCTV cameras will be installed in seven key locations in Carlton, including along Lygon Street and at Argyle Square. The expansion of our Safe City Camera Program will boost safety and reduce antisocial behaviour in response to community feedback.

Almost \$6 million will be spent on critical safety infrastructure and resources, including upgrading lighting in key precincts such as Bourke Street between Exhibition and Spring streets.

We're working with philanthropic partners and the Victorian Government to improve housing access and affordability through Homes Melbourne. This includes \$12 million towards our landmark Make Room project, which will convert a Council-owned building into safe and supported accommodation.

Our draft Budget also includes more than \$1.1 million to ensure rough sleepers have access to food, healthcare and other support services through partnerships with Melbourne City Mission and the Salvation Army.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

To stay connected with all the latest news from the City of Melbourne, follow us on social media and subscribe to *Melbourne News* at [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

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Your City of Melbourne community update



The new Food Hall at Queen Victoria Market is due to open soon.

### Getting on with city-shaping projects

**Melbourne is the fastest-growing capital city in the country. That's why we're getting on with delivering a strong pipeline of infrastructure projects to accommodate this growth and bring vital services closer to home.**

In 2023-24, we will invest \$247.5 million in infrastructure, supporting up to 1,000 jobs and creating economic stimulus now, while delivering much-needed community services and facilities for the future.

A \$60 million boost for the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal program will ramp up works on a range of projects including new trader and customer facilities, as well as upgrades to the Franklin Street streetscape.

We'll break ground on our landmark Greenline Project with \$17 million for the first stage of works at Birrarung

Marr, creating an expanded riverside promenade. We'll also unveil The Greenline Project Master Plan outlining our vision for the city-shaping works.

We're investing \$28 million to get on with the new Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre, set to open in early 2025. The facility will feature a rejuvenated pool area, full-sized multipurpose courts, health and wellness areas, and a wrap-around café.

A further \$3 million will complete the city's brand-new Munro library and hub, which is set to transform the precinct with a state-of-the-art, 3,100m2 library, family services and community spaces.

Our investment also includes more than \$12 million for road and footpath maintenance, including \$3.2 million to upgrade footpaths and \$3 million to fix potholes and improve roads.



Our Business Concierge service will continue to support our city's small businesses.

### Backing business and attracting investment

**We're making it easier and more attractive to do business in Melbourne by cutting red tape and streamlining processes. A \$12 million boost to Invest Melbourne will bring new ventures and create jobs for the city.**

Small business owners are the heart and soul of our city, so we're expanding our Business Concierge service to support new and existing city businesses with a \$500,000 investment.

Since January, the Business Concierge team has provided free advice and mentoring to more than 15,500 city businesses - reducing the time it takes for a business to start up in the city and supporting them as they embrace Melbourne's new rhythm.

Our draft Budget also includes \$1.2 million for precinct associations to create more opportunities for business networking, education and training, and initiatives to encourage visitation and local spending.

We're making it easier to do business, with \$2.4 million to complete the Digital Permits Project, fast-tracking permit approval timelines and cutting red tape for traders and buskers.

We'll also continue to back the hospitality and retail sector with \$540,000 to continue efforts to reduce shopfront vacancies.

The Shopfront Activation Program has helped to reduce the city's shopfront vacancy rate from 31 per cent in November 2021 to 15 per cent. A total of 67 spaces have been activated with pop-up shops, creative offerings and bespoke displays.



We're committed to making Melbourne the greenest and most sustainable city in the country.

### A greener more sustainable city

**Our draft Budget includes a \$51 million investment to create new open space, protect parks, charge ahead with Power Melbourne and cut emissions.**

We love our parks, gardens and open spaces, they play an important role in making Melbourne more liveable which is why we're investing \$26.5 million to maintain them.

We'll spend \$16.5 million to secure new open space across the municipality, including pocket parks for Chapman Street, North Melbourne and Miles and Dodds Street Reserve in Southbank.

Construction will start on the Bedford Street pocket park, adding an extra 2,000m2 of open space in North Melbourne. In partnership with the State Government, the project will deliver play and picnic facilities, 48 trees and safer pedestrian crossings.

We'll also improve storm water harvesting across the municipality, collecting water from drains and roads to help irrigate and drought-proof the city's parks and gardens.

With support from the State Government, \$2.3 million will be spent on a stormwater harvesting project to drought-proof Princes Park in Carlton.

We'll invest \$1.1 million to continue the rollout of our popular Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) collection services into mixed-used residential and commercial buildings.

The program was introduced to more than 23,000 households and apartments across the municipality last year, diverting more than 1,500 tonnes of organic waste from landfill.

We're also charging ahead with plans to combat climate change and achieve net zero emissions, investing \$1.5 million in our landmark Power Melbourne project.

This year, we'll install the first neighbourhood battery at Library at the Dock, providing 100 per cent renewable energy to the community.

### Biggest ever events calendar

**We're delivering our biggest events calendar with \$28.2 million in festivals, activations and cultural celebrations to bring more people together in the city.**

This will cement our status as the nation's events and culture capital, boost our visitor economy and have flow on benefits for our retail, hospitality and small businesses.

All the city's favourite events will return bigger and better than ever - Christmas Festival, New Year's Eve

and Melbourne Fashion Week, along with a special anniversary celebration to mark 70 years of our much-loved Moomba Festival.

All the fun begins on 30 June when Firelight Festival will light up Docklands for a three-night celebration of the winter solstice. Followed by our new Now or Never Festival in August, with immersive experiences of art, ideas, music and technology in a series of free and ticketed events over city streets and venues.



We're planning a special celebration to mark the 70th anniversary of our much-loved Moomba Festival.

### HAVE YOUR SAY

Feedback on the draft Budget 2023-24 can be provided on Participate Melbourne until 11.59pm on Thursday 8 June.

After a special meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee on Tuesday 20 June to consider community feedback, the final Budget is expected to be endorsed by councillors on Tuesday 27 June.

Have your say at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans)

# Arts Precinct



## First Peoples' spirit stories told through new large-scale projection

*Respected First Nations Elder, storyteller, cultural advisor, advocate, and artist Aunty Zeta Thomson is using Hamer Hall from June 7 to July 9 as a canvas for her newly commissioned artwork.*

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

Produced by Arts Centre Melbourne in collaboration with RISING, the large-scale digital projection, *Spirits of the Land*, is a work that shares the beliefs and stories from both Ms Thomson's land and the broader Aboriginal culture. Ms Thomson is a descendant of the Yorta Yorta,

Wurundjeri, Wamba Wamba, and Wiradjuri people, and through her art she strives to acknowledge Victorian Aboriginal culture and to share these stories with the wider public.

"These are the stories and beliefs of my people," Ms Thomson said.

"This work is to pass on to our younger generation and I think it is overdue. It's a way of remembering and keeping the stories from my mum, dad and family, and the culture they taught us alive."

Included within the storyline of her latest work are Mookies, the Ancestor spirits of Country; Hairy Bekka, a creature that teaches children to keep safe; and Min Min lights, malevolent illuminations to avoid.

"In our culture, the old people would sing and clap our sticks or boomerangs together as they walked through the bush to let them [the Spirits] know that they were coming back to visit them again," Ms Thomson said.

"It is important to strongly represent Victorian Aboriginal culture for people to know these ancient stories."

Ms Thomson's art has often had a special place in the heart of the city; she was the first Victorian Aboriginal artist to have work exhibited at the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre at Melbourne Museum, and her *Mookies Around the Waterhole* work was part of RISING's 2021 Arts Trams series.

Curator and RISING artistic associate, and Yorta Yorta woman Kimberley Moulton said, "it is an honour to work with esteemed Elder Aunty Zeta Thomson and to animate her stories."

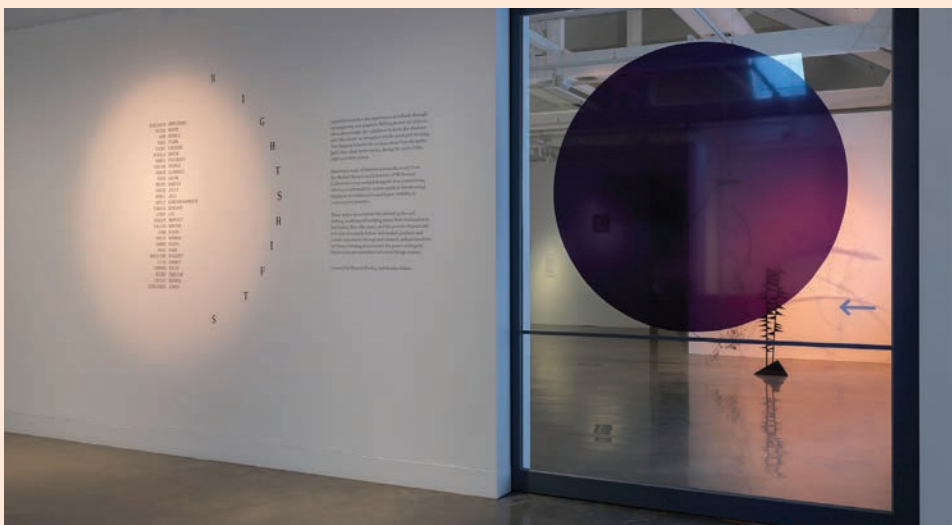
"*Spirits Of The Land* is a work that shares belief systems and stories that are not myths or folklore, but very real to First Peoples across the state," she said. "These systems of knowledge are part of a network of information that manifest through celestial connections, creatures of the land and waters and a cultural practice that is

over 2000 generations old."

"This new projection work, which is an extension of her paintings and storytelling practice, is an example of the ever-adapting way First Peoples share art and culture and I'm so excited for it to light up Hamer Hall, celebrating the strong, living First Peoples culture of Victoria."

*Spirits of the Land* will also continue to be showcased through NAIDOC Week, and it will feature in RISING's new First Peoples exhibition *Shadow Spirit* at Flinders Street Station's abandoned rooms. The free exhibition is also part of the *Electric* series, which is funded by the Victorian Government and Creative Victoria through the Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund. ● For more

**For more information:**  
[artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://artscentremelbourne.com.au)



## nightshifts embraces solitude as positive and productive

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

A contemplative new group exhibition featuring more than 30 works from the University of Melbourne's art collection has arrived at Buxton Contemporary.

Unveiled at the end of May, *nightshifts* questions the importance of solitude, and looks to the "after hours" as a metaphor to explore the thinking and work that happens away from the public's gaze, during periods of rest, privacy and temporary seclusion.

The large-scale exhibition is curated by Hannah Presley and Annika Aitken, and works span a range of themes, histories, and media.

"Annika and I were keen to consider the Buxton and wider Melbourne University collections through a different lens," senior curator museums and collections Hannah Presley said.

"We began by examining the work of artists who have created their most enigmatic work through solo studio practice and extended this investigation to encompass artists exploring the creatively

abundant qualities of time spent alone. It was important to us to embrace the potential for solitude to be a positive and productive mechanism of artistic practice."

Two new commissions have also been included within the exhibition; Canberra-based artist Lisa Sammut with a new large-scale kinetic sculptural and moving image installation, and Gunditjmarra and Keeray Woorroong artist Dr Vicki Couzens' and Rob Bundle's immersive soundscape that draws on the Indigenous concept of Deep Listening.

"We have worked with Lisa Sammut, Dr Vicki Couzens and Rob Bundle to present two exciting new commissions for *nightshifts*," curator, museums and collections Annika Aitken said.

"These works create space for pause and contemplation within the exhibition, and are supported by a responsive design that moves through subtle transitions in light, colour, and sound – evoking the shift from dusk to dawn." *nightshifts* will be presented at Buxton Contemporary up until October 29, and is open from Wednesday through to Sunday, 11am to 5pm. ●

## A portrait of an enterprising artist

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Many of society's assumptions about artists are expressed in the story told at the new exhibition *Rembrandt: True to Life* at the National Gallery of Victoria.

Artists in 17<sup>th</sup> century Amsterdam had to prove themselves just as they do today. Many of the pressures are exhibited in this show of prints, paintings and artefacts.

As well as setting up a prominent workshop by the canal to promote his brand, Rembrandt wanted to be seen as a connoisseur. A reconstruction of his cabinet of curiosities is on display, as well as more than 100 etchings and several key paintings from international museums, including his self-portrait.

It is still possible to visit Rembrandt's house in Amsterdam to see how an artist with both vision and industry set up his life.

One floor was for living, another for receiving customers, another as a workshop where he trained students, charging 100 guilders a year for tuition.

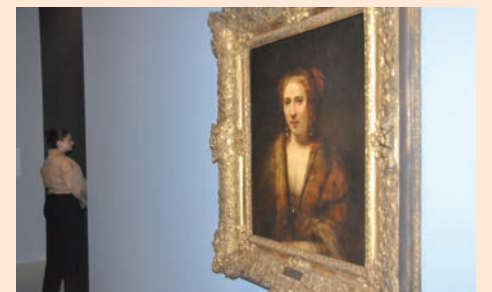
At his prime, Rembrandt was bringing in the guilders for his painting commissions and etchings, which set a record in terms of price.

"He took etching to a new level," curator Petra Kayser said. "Once you print 50, a plate wears down. Where a lesser artist would abandon it, Rembrandt goes back to the plate and reworks it."

She said he pioneered methods for creating dark areas, being spontaneous, revealing a sense of drama with the free form working of figures that was quite different to the restrictions of traditional engravings.

In his paintings, he left unimportant areas quite dark and worked roughly on others. "He had a dark, rich expressive style. The impressionists loved him," she said.

But like all good stories, the fortunes of Rem-



brandt plummeted. He wasn't good at maintenance; his house had weak foundations and his painting style went out of fashion. Personal tragedy also struck with three of four children he had with his first wife Saskia dying, just one surviving to adulthood. His wife died soon after the birth of their fourth child and his "brand" was tarnished when he was accused of living in sin with the mother of his fifth child.

The curators have done a good job of bringing the person of Rembrandt to light as well as the 100 etchings in the NGV collection.

Rembrandt is an inspiration in how he lived in his life and even though he made religious etchings in the fashion of the day depicting tronies, or character types, he looked beneath the surface of his subject matter.

He made a study of old men in scruffy beards, for example, and did not usually bother with adornments in his portraits even when the trends changed.

An exception was a lovely intimate portrait of Hendrickje Stoffels, his servant, wearing quite an intricate gold gown. Usually his portraits are darker, simpler and less detailed.

It is believed that Hendrickje was Rembrandt's third girlfriend and mother of his fifth child. They lived together for 19 years in a smaller house, and she must have introduced a few changes. *Rembrandt: True to Life*, National Gallery of Victoria, until September 10. ●



MARK STEVENS

## When a change in trajectory leads to the discovery of a passion

*Outside of his corporate career, Mark Stevens occasionally dabbled in photography, but it wasn't until he retired that he could jump at the opportunity to chase his passion.*

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Although based in Sydney while studying at Photography Studies College (PSC), Mr Stevens said he was "very thankful" to have chosen to study in Melbourne, adding that he would "recommend the course to anyone".  
 "When I retired from corporate life, I looked at it like I had an opportunity in life to do something a little bit different and so I started researching courses, and thought, you know what, I am going to do photography full-time," he said.  
 "I am enjoying the process even if I don't know where it will lead me."  
 While studying online isn't without challenges,

especially when it comes to not being able to be with other students in-person or use the campus facilities, Mr Stevens said it was a course that lended itself to remote learning.  
 As well as being involved in classes virtually, Mr Stevens has been able to still receive one-on-one feedback from the lecturers, all who are more than happy to offer their suggestions on how to improve, stretch, and challenge oneself.  
 "The college staff are incredibly helpful and inclusive, and they go out of their way to help make it as easy as possible for me," he said.  
 "When the class did a gallery visit, the lecturer brought a laptop, and the students took turns carrying me around on the laptop."

As a first year, Mr Stevens said he was already finding himself leaning towards street and landscape photography.  
 "I like street photography and just grabbing a camera in the morning, getting on the train, going to a town, walking about and making a day and adventure of it, and then I look forward to the process of going home and going through the photos," he said.  
 "But I'm also enjoying learning all types at the moment. Lecturers at PSC look at photos very differently, so I'm also liking the process of understanding how to read and interpret a photograph and how I have started looking at photographs very differently." ●



CRITIC



## Leaf the environment alone

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*

There is nowhere to hide in the Great Hall of the National Gallery of Victoria if you're at an art book fair.  
 Painter Jon Campbell has a gig in the atrium singing the praises of one of the books. He is literally singing the words out of the book. He is flicking through the images one by one, and they are arresting in their simplicity.  
 The artist has first painted the images then the designer had laid digital screens over them to give texture to the surface.  
 This limited edition of 15 risograph prints is all about the message.  
 The art book team had collected sayings about the planet from climate change activists and used them as text in the prints.  
 A leading environmentalist was once asked what people could do to save the planet. "Grow lettuce," he said.  
 The ability to capture a large concept in a small action is the essence of being a good chronicler. The lime green glows in the print.  
 Risograph printing is an old method of reproduction invented in Japan in which texture is created in blocks of colour, softening the impact of solid colour, and making it more luminous.  
 After the performance, Jon relaxed on a couch. "I've made two books with texts and sayings," he said. "A World full of Cover Versions and A World Full of Lying Bastards. This is my third book. I can't make work without politics or jokes, slang and swearing. I need that."  
 "Frack off", one of the posters is in half tones.  
 A risograph can be grainy. It doesn't need to be perfect or consistent. Unusual overlays create unexpected results.  
 No Planet B responds to the black summer bushfires, the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate emergency.  
 Collaborators included artist Jon Campbell, publisher Bronwyn Johnson and designer Aaron Beehre.  
 Jon taught art at the VCA for 30 years and the book was launched at the Melbourne Art Book Fair on May 20.  
 No Planet B, Jon Campbell, 11am Press. ●



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SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

# Teaching our youngest Southbankers about sustainability

*The community gardens at the Boyd Community Hub attract quite a few children each day as they walk to school or are on their way to play in the park behind the Boyd Community Hub.*

WORDS BY *Maria Tarrant & Sarah Horner*

As we are caring for the vegetable and herbs in the garden beds, we often get a number of questions from the children wanting to know what is going on.

Many are surprised when we explain we are growing food and that they are welcome to come and harvest with their parents when the plants are ready. More than once a child has expressed delight when they are offered a freshly growing strawberry to eat. They have been confused as they thought strawberries came from the local shop.

It is not surprising that children in Southbank have a limited appreciation of where their food comes from. After all, we are quite a distance from farms and orchards and many of us are in high-rise buildings without gardens.



Some of the local early learning centres and schools have programs and activities in place where students learn about planting and growing food and flowers.

Recently, volunteers from Southbank Sustainability Group (SSG) worked with the three-year-old kindergarten children and their teachers at OAC South Melbourne to turn over and replenish their old vegetable garden beds.

The volunteers, children, and educators worked together to layer the garden beds with

shredded paper, compost, worm castings from the SSG worm farms, straw, and coffee grounds from local café Trillium South Melbourne.

While they worked together, the children learned all about soil and its components as well as developing sustainable perspectives on waste management. You are never too young to learn about sustainable practices. The children are now letting the beds rest for winter and are very excited to plant a new crop in early spring.

We are excited to announce a series of events are planned for the rest of the year. The first event is a workshop about propagating and caring for your indoor plants. It will be held at the Boyd Community Hub on Saturday, June 17.

Future events include a workshop on zero waste living in July; planting for small spaces such as balconies in August; and sustainable clothing in October. Details will be included on our Facebook page closer to the date for each event.

The community garden continues to benefit from the efforts of many locals, and it has been great to meet new Southbank residents at the garden over the past month.

Anyone is welcome to drop by and join in the discussions and gardening. We have fortnightly Saturday meetups at 10.00am in the garden. Dates for June are the 10th and 24th.

### About the group

SSG is a solutions-focussed community group of Southbank residents working to bring positive change in sustainability practices. Reach us at [southbanksustainability@gmail.com](mailto:southbanksustainability@gmail.com) or [facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup)

If you are interested in getting involved with Southbank Sustainability Group, send us an email, or come to one of the upcoming meet ups. ●

OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

## Think twice and sleep on it before firing off that email complaint to the owners' corporation chairperson

*A Court in Sydney has awarded damages of \$120,000 to the elderly chairperson of an apartment block, after a tenant sent an email to him and the other owners in which she asked him to stop emailing her about locking her mailbox.*

The Court heard the chairperson had sent a number of emails to the tenant noting that her mailbox in the building had been left open and requesting that she keep it locked.

This included an email on May 24, 2017, in which he said, "As your mailbox has again been open for the last few days it is obvious I have not been able to convince you of the seriousness of this issue".

The court heard there had been reports of

gangs stealing mail in the area. Mailboxes in the building were broken into twice, starting in April 2017.

The chairperson believed the culprits may have been able to cut a "master key" by examining the lock on the tenant's unlocked mailbox.

In her email on May 25, the tenant said, "Your assertion/s that a single unlocked mailbox has allowed a criminal milieu to stalk the ... [apartment complex] and spend the time necessary to copy barrels/locks in order to then construct a master key is farfetched [sic]."

She described the chairperson as having a "fixation on this issue" and suggested that, in light of his "email hobby", he might consider getting sensitive documents such as banking statements sent via email rather than in the post.

Lawyers for the chairperson said the email defamed him by implying he was a "small-minded busybody who wastes the time of fellow residents on petty items" concerning the building, and that he "unreasonably harassed" and "acted

menacingly" by "consistently threatening her by email".

They also alleged the email from the tenant suggested the chairperson was a "malicious person who sent threatening emails to the defendant and copied in other residents" to publicly humiliate her.

The Judge found those meanings were conveyed and the tenant had failed to establish a defence to any of them. This included defences of truth and honest opinion.

"It would be fair to say that every sentence of the defendant's email in reply struck a blow at the plaintiff and was intended to ridicule and humiliate him in every way," the Judge said.

She found that the tenant's evidence was "coloured by exaggerated language, groundless suspicions and hostility".

As a lawyer that practices in owners' corporation (OC) matters, I am not shocked by this decision, even though the facts of the matter may seem trivial.

Defamation law is complicated and

convoluted; however it is best practice that one should avoid ever having to get mixed up in a defamation case.

Owners and committees in Melbourne should reflect on this judgement. I have seen many emails over the years that have been sent by owners to committee members and vice versa that are far worse in language and imputation.

It will only be a matter of time before a similar judgment is made in Victorian OC law.

My advice: best to go to bed and see how you feel in the morning before sending that email to the committee at 9.30pm at night. Calmer heads and more carefully chosen words seem to prevail in these circumstances ... ●



*Tom Bacon*

TOM BACON IS THE PRINCIPAL LAWYER OF STRATA TITLE LAWYERS.

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## HISTORY

# Commonwealth celebrations – May 1901

“

*The month of May 1901 was a major point for the new country of Australia with foundation celebrations taking place across the new nation.*

”

In Sydney, an estimated 100,000 people gathered in the Domain to hear the proclamation. In Melbourne many processions took place and celebrations were enhanced by the visit of the royal couple (the Duke of Cornwall and York, heir apparent to the throne, accompanied by the Duchess) who opened the first Federal Parliament of the new country at the Exhibition Building in May 1901.

In what is now Southbank, the entrance to the city was enhanced by the erection of a celebratory arch on the Princes Bridge section of St Kilda Rd. It was intended to represent the living bonds of Empire. While welcomed by most, it was derided by some for showing excessive pomp and being wasteful.

Commissioned by the Melbourne City Council, it was designed by the leading architect



Harold Desbrowe Anner, and contained various patriotic references. It consisted of a triumphal three-span arch of great dimensions in the strong and virile style of pure Roman Doric.

The three arches were semi-circular sections, adorned with half-columns, with the larger one in the centre containing a tram line for cable cars. The other two arches were dedicated to

traffic of bicycles, horse-drawn traffic, and pedestrians.

In total the large arch was 27 metres wide and 12 metres deep, so it was a substantial building that welcomed visitors to the city.

The major theme of the arch celebrated the nautical might of the British Empire, and the keystone of the main arch was formed by the

proW of a classic galley with a large lion's head as the figure head.

It was topped with three enormous banners hung as square sails, emphasising the idea of the Ship of State embodied in the architecture of the arch, while flags on the wall on either side were of a nautical nature.

But there was little representation of Australia on the arch, only the names of each of the federated states on rowing blades beneath the keystone.

The arch featured classical statements on both sides, while the two sections flanking the central arch featured two panels: one adorned with One Life One Flag, and the other with One Fleet One Throne.

The arch was on display at night, with light provided by six arc lights and more than 1000 incandescent lights, and the general scheme of decoration colour was gold and silver, with vermilion on a white ground.

Other arches were constructed in coming years, all temporary, with the final one installed for the 1956 Olympic Games. But that's another story! ●



Robin Grow

PRESIDENT - AUSTRALIAN  
ART DECO AND MODERNISM  
SOCIETY  
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COM.AU

## SOUTHBANK3006

## Big wins for Southbank3006

*More than 16 months ago, people with common concerns and hopes for the future of Southbank joined together to form Southbank3006.*

After much hard work, we have engaged with hundreds of Southbankers at dozens of events. We hosted the neighbourhood's first *A Very Merry Friend-mas* community celebration, state and federal political candidate debates and a forum on the Arts Precinct Transformation.

We've presented monthly forums on a range of issues including traffic and pedestrian safety, strata reform, intrusive artificial light, bicycle and scooter safety, among others.

Representatives from our committee met with state and federal leaders on a range of issues, attended countless City of Melbourne (CoM) council and Future Melbourne Committee meetings – submitting and presenting comments on critical issues including traffic management, pedestrian safety, low traffic neighbourhoods, increased green space, and noise and light pollution.

We've spent one-on-one time with leaders, walking them through Southbank to demonstrate what Southbankers care about. Time spent with Lord Mayor Sally Capp helped to advocate for the completion of road crossings across Balston and Kavanagh streets to Boyd Community Hub and the Power St/City Rd upgrade.

Meetings with federal MP Josh Burns better connected him with the needs of Southbank, something that helped drive his work to provide Southbankers with access to a neighbourhood battery.

Conversations with Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and our State MP Nina Taylor, who lives in Southbank, contributed to the recently-budgeted ACCA Forecourt Renewal project and we've briefed CoM neighbourhood

partner Ash Lee on initiatives Southbank3006 is pursuing on behalf of residents.

We attended Victoria Police Local Safety Committee Meetings and a Safety Summit hosted by the Lord Mayor, advocating for more boots on the ground in the heart of Southbank – not just along the promenade on Friday and Saturday nights.

The quality of our events, solutions-focused outreach and unwavering advocacy for Southbank has contributed to successful grant applications with the City of Melbourne and attracted our largest private donor, DGtek fibre optic network – providing us with a significant show of monetary support critical to underwriting community events and operating costs.

Look out for our series of upcoming events which are celebrating the diversity of Southbank including understanding the rich history of First Nations People with a NAIDOC week event, a Southbank Cultural Diversity Celebration, a walking tour of Southbank exploring First Nations history and some exciting surprises.

All of this progress in just over a year reminds me of a quote from American ethnobotanist Terence McKenna:

“Nature loves courage. You make the commitment and nature will respond to that commitment by removing impossible obstacles. Dream the impossible dream and the world will not grind you under, it will lift you up.”

The way to join our dream of making Southbank the very best place to live and to get updates about events is by registering at [southbank3006.com](https://southbank3006.com). We hope to see you at a Southbank3006 event soon. ●



MaryKay Rauma  
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COMMUNITY@  
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COM



## METRO TUNNEL



## First Nations artworks to feature at Metro Tunnel's eastern entrance in South Yarra

*Two Victorian First Nations artists will create permanent works for the Metro Tunnel's eastern entrance in South Yarra, as part of the project's Legacy Artwork Program.*

The artists, Aunty Kim Wandin and Kent Morris, were selected following an expressions of interest campaign in 2022, which sought artworks that connect people to the area's cultural heritage.

Most of the sculptures will sit in the South Yarra Siding Reserve, which will reopen to the public this year with new landscaping, seating and art. Some of Wandin's work will also be located nearby in Arthur St.

Wandin's *Murrup Biik*, in collaboration with artist Christine Joy, honours the location of a significant Aboriginal cultural site as a series of string bags traditionally known as *Bilangs*.

The *Bilangs* acknowledge the journey of Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung women across Country, and the work of women collecting food to provide for families and as Custodians of the land.

Wandin said the sculptures offered a unique experience to both passers-by and those standing fully in their presence.

“Murrup Biik aims to create a sense of intrigue and transformative healing,” Wandin

said. “There will be an energetic exchange of giving and understanding.”

Kent Morris' *Where We Walk* was inspired by the significant flaked stone artefacts uncovered at South Yarra Siding Reserve, which speak to its long connection with the Wurundjeri people.

It aims to increase First Peoples cultural representation in the reserve as a cultural marker of respect, connection, and knowledge.

Morris hopes the work will inspire the public to open their hearts and minds, look and listen deeply on their journey through the reserve, and embrace the knowledge embedded in Country.

“My art transforms the built environment and nature into new forms that reflect First Nations knowledge systems reshaping western frameworks, exploring complex histories and First Nations cultural continuity since time immemorial,” Morris said.

The Metro Tunnel will include individual artworks at each of the new stations and the tunnel entrances, as well as a line-wide artwork that will span all five stations.

Construction is progressing well on the project's twin tunnels and five new stations, which will open in 2025 – a year ahead of schedule.

For further information about the Legacy Artwork Program head to the website below ... ●

**For more information:**  
[bigbuild.vic.gov.au](https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au)

WE LIVE HERE

# Suburban councils take the lead

*The City of Melbourne is falling behind suburban councils in the race to prevent the city being overrun by short stays.*

The City of Port Phillip is the most recent council to show that it hears residents' fears about short stays. The CEO has been instructed to prepare a report on how other councils manage them; with details on how they could be regulated.

This directive was the result of a community petition demanding that the council act to develop and enforce rules on short stay operations in Port Phillip. The investigative report must be presented to the council next month.

Many councils have now introduced basic regulations. **Bass Coast, Frankston, Mornington Peninsula** and most recently **Warrnambool** have implemented registration systems for short stay hosts, charging an annual fee. **Yarra Ranges Council** lobbied the state government to take responsibility for regulating short stays.

The outer suburbs appear to be more advanced on this issue. If the current momentum continues, Port Phillip may become the first inner-city council to step up and regulate short stays.

Outside the municipal sphere, the Victorian Tourism Industry Council and Accommodation Association has been lobbying the government about its concerns around the housing shortage for local workers ...



ANNUAL SHORT STAY HOST FEES		
City of Melbourne	\$0	Bass Coast Shire Council
Frankston City Council	\$150	Mornington Peninsula
	\$311	Warrnambool Shire Council
		\$400

These concerns are backed up by economic data. In a lecture at the University of Melbourne, Professor Greg Clark, an urban expert based in the UK, argued that every successful city in the world is experiencing a housing shortage:



Professor Clark, who reportedly has advised more than 300 cities and 50 national governments, said the housing crisis is particularly acute in Australia in comparison with global benchmarks. In response to the expanding controversy, a Victorian Government representative issued an embarrassing prevarication:

"We have introduced laws to limit disruption caused by unruly short-stay guests in apartments and continue to monitor the wider impacts of the sector."

Victoria's short stay laws are among the feeblest implemented by any jurisdiction anywhere. A review of VCAT cases by one of our intrepid correspondents has revealed that there have been 50 cases against short-stay hosts to date – and not one host has been penalised! ●

SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

# One hundred columns! Who would have thought?

*I write this column with surprise. My first column was edition 25 of Southbank News in November 2013 after being elected as president at the October 2013 AGM.*

At that time, I would never have thought I would be here 100 columns later, still advocating for Southbank. I have missed about a handful during this time for various reasons, but I have always looked forward to writing them.

After seeing the AGM presentation of the outgoing president, Michael Smolders, I knew I had big shoes to fill and was prepared to give it my best shot. There were other members on the committee too, but sadly they were all new volunteers just like me, but no less eager. It was certainly a massive learning curve, but I knew I still had the support of the outgoing committee whenever needed. Michael remained a valuable resource.

But looking back, not much has really changed in terms of issues within the community. Open space was the number one issue at that time, and it still is although we have had some small gains owing to Boyd Park and Southbank Boulevard upgrades, but still far from enough. We have had a few tough battles, and a few significant wins. But what has been so striking during this time is the seriousness and attention which has been afforded to the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA), making us a most credible community representative.

For the most part, our concerns are given due attention and we have not been painted as a NIMBY community group, as too often so many are. We are progressive and have remained relevant. I recall our previous local state member Martin Foley's comments at one of our AGMs that he engages with many community groups

across the Albert Park electorate and SRA was by far the most engaged and progressive group he had the pleasure to work with. Our committee was chuffed to hear that.

While I have been fortunate to lead SRA during this time, our achievements are credited to the hard work and commitment of our volunteer committees. I have had the pleasure of collaborating with this diverse cross-section of our community and made many new friends along the way. They are the real heroes to our representation.

One stand-out achievement during this time was the establishment of the Southbank Owners' Corporation Network (SOCN), which has grown from strength to strength along the way and now provides a valuable resource and opportunity for OCs to collaborate and improve the inner-workings of their buildings. I have seen great things come from these meetings and am excited to see where this group will continue to move to.

And, of course, thank you to the hard-working team at *Southbank News*, for making these 100 columns possible!

Another 100 columns you may be asking? I doubt it, but I am still keeping my eyes and ears open as I am bumping into residents throughout the neighbourhood and learning about what they love about our community and what they think could be improved.

Contact me via the email below if you'd like to get involved with our community group. ●



**Tony Penna**  
PRESIDENT  
PRESIDENT@SOUTHBANKRESIDENTS.ORG.AU



NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

# Police launch Operation Ride Safe to clamp down on illegal e-scooter use

*With the extended trial of e-scooters with revised rules and the increased uptake in the use of e-scooters within the Melbourne CBD, Victoria Police will be conducting Operation Ride Safe.*

WORDS BY *Sergeant Dinah Tremain*  
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING COORDINATOR



The operation is in response to the growing number of e-scooter incidents and near-misses which are occurring throughout the precincts of Melbourne CBD, Southbank, and Docklands.

Melbourne East local area police commander Inspector Dale Huntington said police would be conducting visible foot patrols and police bike patrols of risk e-scooter locations throughout the city during the month of June.

Police will be clamping down on those riding on pavements, excessive speed, riders not wearing helmets, multiple people on a single e-scooter and riding while over the prescribed alcohol limit.

"The legal use of e-scooters in a safe and appropriate manner provides a fantastic new transport option for many tourists and locals when visiting or travelling through the Melbourne CBD," Inspector Huntington said.

"It is the risky behaviours and illegal use of e-scooters which places individual riders and community members at risk that police will be targeting."

## Operation Regal

This operation will be a state-wide road policing operation being conducted over the King's Birthday long weekend from 12.01am Friday, June 9 to 11.59pm Monday, June 12.

Operation Regal will be conducted throughout all operational police regions and police service areas (PSAs) during the four-day period.

A key focus of Operation Regal is to maintain a visible and active police presence on Victorian roads to act as a deterrent against unsafe road behaviour.

The operation will target drug and alcohol impaired driving, speed, fatigue, distraction offences and seatbelt compliance.

Please be safe during the King's Birthday break. ●

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CBD - 5 MINUTES TO YOUR DOOR

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STATE MP

# Victoria is leading the renewable energy revolution

*My passion for the environment was inspired early in life by my parents.*

WORDS BY *Nina Taylor*  
STATE MP FOR ALBERT PARK

In particular, my mother instilled a strong sense of responsibility, including both collective and individual accountability with regard to human impact on our precious planet.

While the impact of human influenced climate change is already having a significant, negative impact on weather patterns and ecosystems, our Victorian Government has been tackling these pressing issues head-on.

We have world-leading emissions reduction targets: 75 to 80 per cent by 2035 and net zero by 2045. With these targets, Victoria's economy will be decarbonising at one of the fastest rates anywhere in the world.

We have delivered the largest annual increase in renewable generation of any state, ever, with renewable generation growing by 3.6 terra-watt hours in 2021.

Our first renewable energy auction is bringing online at least 800MW of capacity.

Our second renewable energy auction was announced in October 2023, with six massive new projects around the state, delivering 600MW of new renewable capacity.

We will be using this new energy to help meet our commitment to power the entire government operations with renewable electricity – every police station, school, hospital and metropolitan train.

Victoria is also the home of big batteries, with the largest big battery in the Southern Hemisphere, and a number of other big batteries spread across our state.

We are also supporting neighbourhood batteries that will store solar power at the local level, providing it back to households in the evenings when they need it.

Our offshore wind targets are leading the country – bringing 2GW of offshore wind on-line by 2032, 4GW by 2035 and 9GW by 2040. This will ensure that Victoria is the home of offshore wind.

We are also leading the nation in helping reduce the amount of energy we use.

We have helped more than 200,000 Victorians install solar on their roof, thanks to our landmark Solar Homes program, which is our \$1.3 billion program to help 770,000 households install solar PV, hot water or a battery.

We recently published the Gas Substitution Roadmap. We are the first state to undertake this vital work, which will drive down the cost of living and cut our usage of fossil gas.

The roadmap details our approach to substituting fossil gas to help achieve Victoria's emissions reduction targets through energy efficiency, electrification, and increased use of alternative gases such as hydrogen and biogas. It shows the incredible opportunity to cut household bills by moving to electricity, with modelling showing that households can save over \$1200 a year by going all-electric.

The Victorian Energy Upgrade (VEU) program has delivered incredible outcomes – helping more than two million households and businesses to cut their bills, saving the average household \$120 and the average business \$3700 a year. The VEU supports more than 2200 jobs a year across the state – in both metropolitan and regional Victoria.

To achieve Victoria's renewable energy target of 95 per cent by 2035 we need to be bolder and faster, and that's why we are bringing back the State Electricity Commission – accelerating the energy transition, pushing more renewable energy into the system, driving down emissions and generating thousands of jobs. ●

YARRA RIVER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

# RISING returns

*Never let it be said that winter is "downtime" in the Yarra River Precinct.*



Over the past decade various authorities have worked very hard and creatively to bring life into our colder months, encouraged by the success of Hobart's Dark Mofo and Sydney's Vivid.

The new RISING festival returns in June, with plenty to see and do in this precinct, as well as right across the CBD. Fed Square, Arts Centre Melbourne and the Melbourne Recital Centre feature special performances. Those worth checking out are *Electric*, which will project onto the side of Hamer Hall for the festival duration; *Shadow Spirit*, upstairs in Flinders Street Station; *Spark* every night in Fed Square; and the 10,000 *Kazoos* special musical event in Fed Square on 10 June. See the full program of events at [rising.melbourne](http://rising.melbourne)

Another event worthy of note for the business community is the next Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) lunch, being held on Thursday, June 15 upstairs in Beer De Luxe, Fed Square.

Guest speakers will present on the new *Melbourne Sentiments Tourism Survey*, which now has six months of statistics under its belt to report. The new-era technology being employed measures the sentiment of people regarding Melbourne's tourism and hospitality assets, as expressed through the vast social media networks and channels. It makes for fascinating listening and is directly relevant to anybody in a tourism or hospitality related business.

Anyone can attend and a special welcome is always extended to Southbank residents. For \$77 per head, you get a two-course meal with all refreshment, pre and post lunch refreshment, plus the valuable information. These

lunches really plug you into the business community of the precinct and are not to be missed. You can book using a credit card at [yarrariver.melbourne/lunch](http://yarrariver.melbourne/lunch)

You have probably noticed that worked has resumed on Southbank Promenade. We are hoping that the area directly in front of the western end of Southgate, alongside the pedestrian bridge, will look as good as that completed in front of Hamer Hall last year. It will give us more pedestrian space and a new, hard-wearing surface to take Melbourne's busiest tourism precinct into the next 20 to 30 years.

We are coming to the end of the Resident 3006 survey period, which is being run in conjunction with the council to determine what type of experience, including food and beverage, residents are seeking for their suburb. Please give us seven minutes of your time to provide valuable feedback. In exchange, you will be in the running for 11 dining prizes. Simply head to [youryarra.melbourne](http://youryarra.melbourne) ●

For more information:  
[yarrariver.melbourne](http://yarrariver.melbourne)



*Jeremy Vincent*  
PRESIDENT  
YARRA RIVER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

10 YEARS ON

# Looking back at Southbank News - 10 Years On

JUNE 2013 | ISSUE 20 |



## King Kong promo causes stir

“

*It was the publicity stunt that garnered more publicity than anyone could've imagined.*

”

The gorilla hand that hung suspended against the Eureka Tower last month was supposed to be a promotion for the new King Kong stage show, but inadvertently became embroiled in the racism in football controversy, after comments from Eddie McGuire on his radio show about the promotion.

The hand was suspended for most of the month and was a spectacular way to promote the upcoming show. ●



## SOUTHBANK NEWS

# Wish your inbox was more local?

Well we have good news for you!

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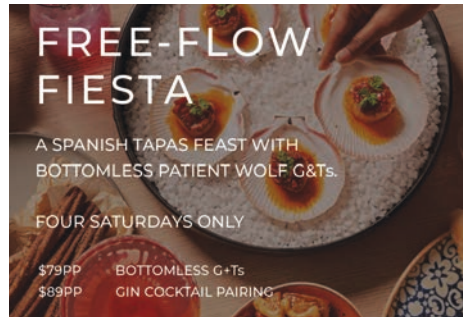


# What's on: June 2023

## Community Calendar



MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2PM (FREE)  
**MAKING WAVES - NEW MUSIC**  
 A four-part series. This workshop features Syzygy Ensemble exploring various compositional styles and techniques, presented in partnership with Virtual School Victoria.  
 Tickets: [melbournerecital.com.au/events/2023/making-waves-new-music/](https://melbournerecital.com.au/events/2023/making-waves-new-music/)  
 Primrose Potter Salon



SATURDAYS, JUNE 3 TO 24  
**FREE-FLOW FIESTA**  
 It's AC Southbank's first birthday, and to celebrate, they've collaborated with Patient Wolf distillery to present the La Boqueria Free-Flow Fiesta: a four-week long celebration of Spanish cuisine.  
 Book now: <https://bit.ly/3N14ipH>

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 6PM  
**DIVISI CHAMBER SINGERS - THE TURN**  
 A youth-led not-for-profit organisation supporting early-career creative artists, and breaking down established norms of classical music. Tickets: [melbournerecital.com.au/events/2023/the-turn/](https://melbournerecital.com.au/events/2023/the-turn/)  
 Primrose Potter Salon



TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 6PM  
**KUNG FU CELLIST - EXTRA/ORDINARY**  
 A musical journey that wanders away from the beaten track. Chinese-born Yelian He (the Kung Fu Cellist) is joined by saxophonist Joseph Lallo. Tickets: [melbournerecital.com.au/events/2023/kung-fu-cellist/](https://melbournerecital.com.au/events/2023/kung-fu-cellist/)  
 Primrose Potter Salon



FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 6PM AND 9PM  
**HEAR MY EYES: GOOD TIME + BIG YAWN + TEETHER**  
 As part of RISING, the nerve-jangling thriller gets a percussive, lyrical score from Big Yawn and Teether. Tickets: [melbournerecital.com.au/events/2023/hear-my-eyes/](https://melbournerecital.com.au/events/2023/hear-my-eyes/)  
 Elisabeth Murdoch Hall



SATURDAYS, 10AM - 12PM  
**SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP**  
 Join a group of green sustainability enthusiasts who meet fortnightly each month. Specific dates can be found on [facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup](https://facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup)  
 Boyd Community Hub

## Business Directory

### Church

**St Johns**  
 Southgate

20 City Road Southbank  
 Telephone 9682 4995  
[www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au](http://www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au)

### Physiotherapy

**Elite Sports Physiotherapy**

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### Politician

We're here to help. Please get in touch if you need assistance.

Your Federal MP for Southbank.

**Josh Burns MP**  
 FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACNAMARA

[joshburns.com.au](http://joshburns.com.au)  
[josh.burns.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:josh.burns.mp@aph.gov.au)  
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# SOUTHBANK NEWS

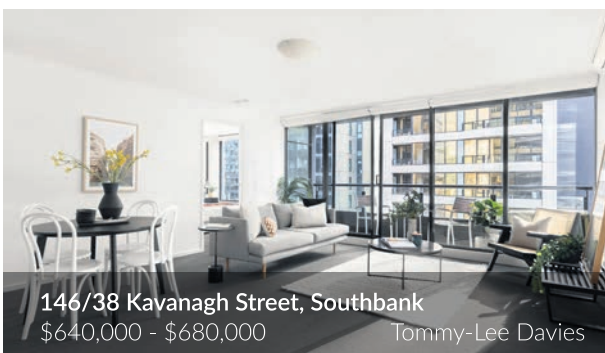
Talk to Southbank News owner Sean Car  
 t 0460 896 115 e [sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au](mailto:sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au)  
 about how to customise your campaign to our audience every month.

# Here today, gone tomorrow

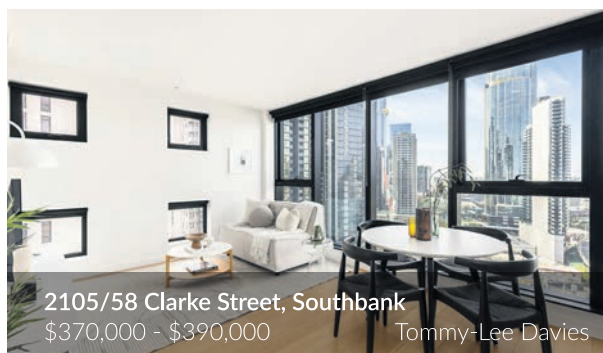
**RayWhite**



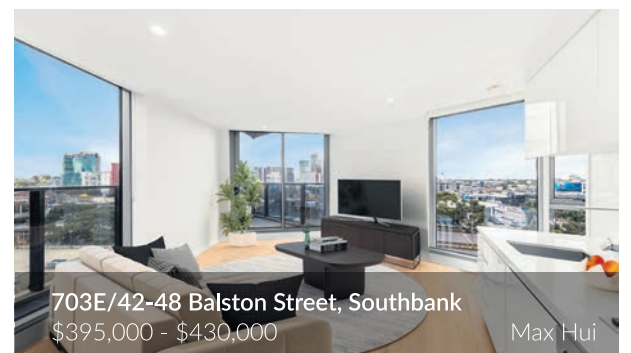
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146/38 Kavanagh Street, Southbank  
\$640,000 - \$680,000 Tommy-Lee Davies



2105/58 Clarke Street, Southbank  
\$370,000 - \$390,000 Tommy-Lee Davies



703E/42-48 Balston Street, Southbank  
\$395,000 - \$430,000 Max Hui



804/60 Islington Street, Collingwood  
Contact Agent Tommy-Lee Davies



107/267-275 Flinders Lane, Melbourne  
\$240,000 - \$260,000 Max Hui



1304/12 Queens Road, Melbourne  
\$430,000 - \$460,000 Tommy-Lee Davies



EG02/11 Flockhart Street, Abbotsford  
\$398,000 - \$430,000 Max Hui



**Sold**  
1006/152 Sturt Street, Southbank  
Sold at \$605,000 Michael Pastrikos



**Sold**  
5201/442 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne  
Sold at \$505,000 Michael Pastrikos



**Sold**  
1408/50 Albert Road, South Melbourne  
Sold Michael Pastrikos



**Sold**  
1903/60 Dorcas Street, Southbank  
Sold at \$640,000 Austen Kosasih



**Sold**  
9/120 Sturt Street, Southbank  
Sold at \$770,000 Michael Pastrikos



**Sold**  
1704/83 Queens Road, Melbourne  
Sold Off Market Tommy-Lee Davies



**Sold**  
D108/18 Grosvenor Street, Abbotsford  
Sold Off Market Max Hui

Michael Pastrikos: 0404 282 864  
Max Hui: 0430 238 021  
Tommy-Lee Davies: 0416 823 173  
Austen Kosasih: 0422 396 900

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